(c) whether such facility will be available to Indian visitors to Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) In response to press reports that Pakistan has liberalised its visa regime for Indian businessmen, a spokesman of the Pakistani Interior Ministry stated that these reports were not in consonance with the policy being followed by Pakistan and had created an erroneous impression.

(c) and (d) Pakistan continues to follow a restrictive visa regime for Indian nationals which involves the pre-verification of all visa applications on a case-by-case basis. Government have, in pursuance of their policy of encouraging people-to-people contacts urged Pakistan to facilitate travel between the two countries. Government have also suggested to Pakistan for the convening of a meeting of the Sub-Committion (IV) of the India-Pakistan Joint Commission which deals with visa and consular related matters.

Acquisition of Arms by Pakistan from Ukraine

"260. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer, to the answer to Unstarred Question 378 given in the Rajya Sabha on 29.11.95 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is acquiring large quantities of lethal weapons including tanks, jet fighters and warships from Ukraine; and

(b) if so, how Government propose to meet the challenge posed by military imbalance in the sub-continent?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government have seen reports that Pakistan is seeking the supply of arms and equipment from Ukraine.

(b) Government will take all necessary measures to ensure the security of India.

Amendment to F.C.R.A.

1579. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount received by various organisations in the country from foreign countries for the purposes of development under foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) during 1994-95 and so far in 1995-96;

(b) whether it is a fact that many organisations are taking advantage of loopholes of the said Act to operate which is becoming a major market; and

(c) whether Government are considering to make Amendment in the said Act to make it more strict?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. M. KAMSON): (a) the information for the year 1994-95 is under compilation. Intimation of receipt of Foreign contribution for the year 1995-96 from various organisations will be due after 31st March, 1996.

(b) and (c) while no specific instances of misuse have come to notice, amendment to the Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 is under consideration to ensure greater effectiveness.